

**Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee  
Tuesday, November 16, 2010  
Hanaford School Cafeteria  
200 Middle Road  
East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE**

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the Hanaford School Cafeteria at 7:00p.m. by Chair Dr. Deidre Gifford. Those in attendance were Mr. Bob Durant; Mr. Paul Martin (arrived 7:05p.m.); Mrs. Susan Records; Mrs. Jean Ann Guliano; Mrs. Anne Palumbo, Vice-Chair; and Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio. Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters and Director of Administration Mrs. Maryanne Crawford were absent.

**7:00p.m.**Regular meeting

**I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Chair Dr. Gifford acknowledged and thanked outgoing School Committee members Mrs. Anne Palumbo and Mrs. Jean Ann Guliano. Dr. Gifford also acknowledged and welcomed newly elected member David Green who was present in the audience.

**II. Public Comments**

On behalf of the East Greenwich Teachers' Association, Mrs. Joanne Leach, teacher and resident, thanked Mrs. Palumbo and Mrs. Guliano for their work on behalf of the students of East Greenwich. Mrs. Leach and Mrs. Cavanaugh also presented School Committee members with a gift to celebrate American Education Week.

**III. Recognitions**

**a. Nina Mackta-** Dr. Mercurio recognized Mrs. Nina Mackta who recently received a grant for \$3,801.00 from the Rhode Island Mentoring Partnership. This grant will be used to increase the number of male mentors in the district. Mrs. Mackta's award was part of a \$400,000 grant which was awarded throughout the state.

**b. EGHS Girls' Field Hockey Division I State Champions-**The EGHS Girls' Field Hockey team was recognized and commended for their Division I State Championship. Coach Deb McMullen and Asst Coach Margaret Naughton were also commended for a job well done. The Committee noted the championship is a tribute to the athletes and their coaches. Certificates of Recognition were given to the team members and coaches.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the regular minutes of the November 9, 2010 meeting. On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted unanimously to table the November 9, 2010 Executive Session minutes until the December 7, 2010 meeting.

**V. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Mercurio congratulated the EGHS Girls' field hockey team and soccer team on their winning season. He also thanked the EG student body for their conduct during the finals. He noted that students' acted fabulously throughout the games and the EG students are a source of pride for the community. Dr. Mercurio also noted that he will be meeting with the Board of Regents on Thursday, November 17, 2010 to discuss the proposed changes to the diploma system. Dr. Mercurio recognized members Mrs. Guliano and Mrs. Palumbo and thanked them for their work and support during their tenure on the School Committee.

**VI. Action Items**

**a. Appointments**

On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, Matthew Records was appointed unanimously with Mrs. Records abstaining. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Records, the rest of the appointments were unanimously approved by the Committee.

1. Jody Mangiaratti-Co-advisor, Cole Mock Trial Team, 2010-2011
2. Daniel Seger-Co-advisor, Cole Mock Trial Team, 2010-2011
3. Ann O-Grady, Advisor, Cole Drama Club, 2010-2011
4. Joe Amato, EGHS, Head Coach Wrestling, 2010-2011
5. Len Kiernan, EGHS, Head Coach Hockey, 2010-2011
6. Sean Fahey, EGHS, Asst Coach Hockey, 2010-2011
7. Peter Dion, EGHS, Head Coach Boys' Indoor Track, 2010-2011
8. Stanley Johnson, EGHS, Head Coach Girls' Indoor Track, 2010-2011
9. Dustin Coleman, EGHS, Asst Coach Girls' Indoor Track, 2010-2011
10. Matthew Records, EGHS, Head Coach Girls' Basketball, 2010-2011
11. Craig MacKenzie, EGHS, Head Coach Boys' Basketball, 2010-2011
12. Don Bowen, EGHS, Asst Coach Boys' Basketball, 2010-2011
13. Joe Szymkowicz, Cole, Boys' Basketball, 2010-2011
14. Jason Martin, Cole, Girls' Basketball, 2010-2011

#### **b. Resignation**

On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the resignation of Katherine O'Rourke, Cole Mock Trial Team was unanimously accepted.

#### **c. Parental Leave**

On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Records, the parental leave for Stacey Munzert was extended from 1/18/11 to 1/26/11.

#### **d. Request for new position-Paraprofessional at Meadowbrook School**

After a lengthy discussion of this position, this request was tabled until the December 7, 2010 meeting. On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted unanimously to table this item until the next School Committee meeting.

#### **e. Student Code of Conduct –Second Reading of Subcommittee appointment and Charge**

The Subcommittee appointment and Charge was revised to include a high school representative. Mr. Martin asked if the student will be from the student council and Dr. Mercurio stated that he will ask for a volunteer from the student council. Dr. Gifford asked that the wording be changed from "*two elementary school chairs to be appointed by the Superintendent*" to "*two elementary principals or designees to be appointed by the Superintendent.*" On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Subcommittee appointment and Charge with the wording changes.

#### **f. Field Trip-Cole Middle School Ski Club-Sunday River in Maine, January 21-January 23, 2011**

On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the field trip.

#### **g. Field Trip-Cole Middle School, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Blue Team, trip to Higgins Armory Museum in Worcester, Massachusetts, December 10, 2010**

On a motion by Mrs. Guliano and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the field trip.

#### **h. Field Trip-EGHS, trip to Federal Reserve, Boston, Massachusetts, November 23, 2010 for the Federal Reserve Cup Challenge**

On a motion by Mrs. Guliano and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the field trip. It was noted that EGHS students will not be competing in the competition, just observing.

### **VII. Discussion Items**

#### **a. Middle School Transition**

Mrs. Meyer and Mr. Scott gave a PowerPoint presentation which gave a fly-through of the new facility. Mrs. Meyer discussed the "green" aspects of the building with the abundance of natural lighting. She also noted that the gymnasium will be a full size gymnasium. Mrs. Meyer discussed the process that the S.I.T. used to develop the new mission statement for Cole. She noted that this statement is read at the beginning

and end of each S.I.T. meeting so members are reminded of their mission. Mrs. Meyer noted the “pancake” tier of the new building with grade 6 on the lower level, grade 7 in the middle, and grade 8 on the top floor. Mrs. Meyer discussed the benefits of housing each grade level on their own floor. Mrs. Meyer and Mr. Scott discussed the various subcommittees (Public Relations, Building, Technology, etc.) and the work performed by each committee. Mrs. Meyer noted that parents can email her @ Cole with any transition question and there is a “transition to the new school link” and transition PowerPoint link on the Cole website. Technology plans were discussed and it was noted that the final technology plans will be presented to the School Committee. The committee discussed the importance of technology in regards to continuity when students move from Cole to the high school.

**b. Technology Advisory Committee-technology plan for Cole**

Mrs. Records and the Technology Committee are scheduled to meet on November 12, 2010 to discuss the plan for Cole. Questions were raised between the district tech committee and the Technology Advisory Committee. Dr. Mercurio noted that the committees are parallel. Mrs. Records noted that the Technology Advisory Committee’s focus is looking at what goes on “behind the wall.”

**c. Presentation on enrollment projections**

Dr. Mercurio gave the committee a presentation on student enrollment using NESDEC projections. It was noted the NESDEC is a highly respected organization that drafts projections for districts throughout New England. The presentation included historical enrollment by grade from 2000-2001 school year to the current 2010-2011 school year. Dr. Mercurio noted that Lincoln Middle School did not see an increase in enrollment with a new middle school, but he also noted that it was unclear if Lincoln changed their grade configuration to a 6, 7, 8 model. He also noted that 20-25% of the East Greenwich student population attends private schools. The demographic projections associated with space needs were discussed in regards to the need for Meadowbrook School.

**d. Memo of Understanding-Field’s use**

Dr. Mercurio met with Mr. Sequino regarding the MOU. The committee raised concerns regarding school expectations and the town expectations in reference to maintenance and fiscal responsibility. Since the Town Council only meets once a month in December, the final MOU may not be completed until January. Questions were raised regarding the history of maintenance and responsibility. Dr. Gifford noted the lack of documentation regarding responsibility noting many people have institutional knowledge, but there is a lack of written documentation. Mr. Durant noted that the committee should look at the historical background regarding responsibility and propose an MOU that makes sense for the town and the school. The MOU draft needs to be reviewed by the committee before the budgetary process. Mrs. Guliano discussed services such as landscaping and snow removal which were performed by the town for the school department using a memo of cooperation.

**e. Mr. Martin’s report on school visitations**

The presentation by Mr. Martin was tabled until the December 7, 2010 meeting at which time he will report on visits to Meadowbrook, Hanaford, Eldredge, and Frenchtown.

**VIII. School Committee Concerns**

Mr. Martin thanked Mrs. Palumbo and Ms. Guliano for their years of service on the committee. It was agreed that elections for School Committee chair and vice –chair will take place at the December 7, 2010 meeting. Dr. Gifford noted that the Building Committee would like School Committee members to attend their November 23, 2010 meeting to discuss projects that are under consideration. Dr. Gifford would like the School Committee Secretary to propose a School Committee schedule for 2011 at the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and also suggest a venue change.

**IX. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Mrs. Guliano and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO  
SECRETARY